



HR0160

LRB104 12445 MST 22768 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, From 1877 to 2002, the State of Illinois operated  
3 a large residential facility for developmentally disabled  
4 children and adults in the City of Lincoln, known first as The  
5 Illinois Asylum for Feeble Minded Children and later renamed  
6 the Lincoln State School and Colony, the Lincoln State School,  
7 and finally, the Lincoln Developmental Center; and

8           WHEREAS, The Lincoln Developmental Center was located on a  
9 sprawling campus, resembling a miniature city, and housed  
10 thousands of residents and contained its own power plant,  
11 kitchen, bakery, sewing rooms, laundry facility, hospital,  
12 nursing school, fire department, jail, and farm, as well as  
13 other industrial shops; and

14           WHEREAS, The Lincoln Developmental Center also contained a  
15 cemetery that housed the remains of deceased patients who had  
16 lived at the facility when their families could not be located  
17 or were indigent; and

18           WHEREAS, The State opened the Logan Correctional Center, a  
19 women's prison, adjacent to the Lincoln Developmental Center  
20 in 1978 and opened the Lincoln Correctional Center, a men's  
21 prison, on the same grounds in 1984; and

1           WHEREAS, After the closure of the Lincoln Developmental  
2 Center in 2002, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)  
3 became responsible for managing the Lincoln Developmental  
4 Center cemetery; and

5           WHEREAS, With the erection of correctional facilities near  
6 the cemetery and management of the cemetery becoming IDOC's  
7 responsibility, it became difficult for family members,  
8 relatives, and friends of those interred at the cemetery to  
9 visit their loved ones, care for their gravesites, and pay  
10 their respects; and

11           WHEREAS, No clear process exists for members of the public  
12 to visit their deceased loved ones interred at the Lincoln  
13 Developmental Center cemetery, including no public guidelines  
14 for families to follow and no public information on who is  
15 responsible for managing such visits at IDOC for families to  
16 contact; therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
19 we urge the Illinois Department of Corrections to develop a  
20 standard policy/set of guidelines that are public for those  
21 who wish to visit gravesites of loved ones including, but not  
22 limited to, familial relations and researchers; and be it  
23 further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of  
2           Corrections to consider ease of access to the public for this  
3           cemetery during renovations or rebuilding of IDOC facilities  
4           at this site; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6           delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of  
7           Corrections.